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AGAWAM

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Agawam Softball . . . 14

INSIDE

Families	8
Business	10
Education	7
Public Safety	9
Sports	14
Classifieds	20

24 PAGES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION

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Councilors place focus on high school renovations

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM — The town of Agawam may be looking at a different approach to address issues in its school buildings, specifically at Agawam High School.

Agawam City Councilors Robert Rossi and Paul Cavallo are co-sponsoring a resolution to enter a statement of interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for renovations for Agawam High School.

Rossi says the town has been turned down in the past for fund-

ing for a brand new high school because Agawam has not been identified as a high-need district by the MSBA. Now, the Agawam School Committee would like to submit an SOI for renovations and repairs at the high school. In Agawam, such a measure has to go through votes of the school committee and then

the city council.

Cavallo, a former principal of Agawam High School, says non-compliance and other issues in the high school are still pending from when he was building administrator many years ago.

"We have a girl's preparation room that is still out of compli-

ance," said Cavallo. "We have bathrooms that are in great need of updating."

Rossi outlined other needs for the high school, but said the building is structurally sound, one of the reasons a new school is not an option.

Please see COUNCIL, page 6

LUCKY SEVEN



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Fifth-graders from the Roberta Doering School are bedecked in green for St. Patrick's Day. Pictured (back row, left to right) are Delaney Miles, Hope Gravanis and Meredith Ravizza; and (front row) Delaney Brown, Nina Liquori, Stephanie Maloni and Jessica D'Amours.

Agawam centenarian feted

Bernice Irene Asta-Ferrero marks milestone birthday

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM — For the family of Bernice Irene Asta-Ferrero, the celebration of her 100th birthday was a huge first.



Asta-Ferrero turned 100 years old on March 4, and her milestone birthday was celebrated last Saturday afternoon at a family party at Partners Restaurant.

Asta-Ferrero spent the majority of her adult life in Agawam and raised her three sons in town. She was born March 4, 1914, and has lived through so many major changes in the country. Her wisdom and knowledge are unmatched, says one of her great-grandchildren.

Please see BIRTHDAY, page 3

CPA funds considered for athletic track rehab

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM — The town may utilize a combination of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding and bonding to renovate the track at Agawam High School.

At the request of Agawam City Councilor George Bitzas, Mayor Richard Cohen provided the council Monday night with an update on the work and research that has been done by the track sub-committee established by the mayor in 2012.

"At this time we are continuing our work with Milone & MacBroom to develop a conceptual plan to present to the Agawam Track Exploratory Committee," stated

Cohen. "The planning process is progressing smoothly, and a draft should be ready for presentation shortly."

Council President Christopher Johnson said he also spoke with Cohen and was told a plan for the track could be presented at a council meeting sometime in April.

After the design is reviewed and comments are made by town administration and the council, cost estimations will be considered before the construction drawings and bid documents are created, Cohen said.

Bitzas said the town will look to utilize some CPA funds for the track. CPA funds can now be used for existing town recreation property. There are limits, however, on how those monies can be appropriated.

The Agawam High School track and the bleachers that surround the

Please see TRACK, page 6

The Sharin' of the Green...

Agawam Colleen, court hold meet-and-greet

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM — One of the most important jobs for the Colleen and her court is to be a role model and a good example for young girls all over the community.

Last Sunday afternoon, 2014 Colleen Kelly Theriault and four of her court members started a new tradition as they participated in a meet-and-greet at Cooper's Commons. The event was the brainchild of Mary Jo Safford, a member of the Colleen Committee.

Safford credited Kate Gorde, owner of Cooper's Commons, for opening up her business to host



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Agawam Colleen Kelly Theriault poses with Madison Elias, 11, and Emily Fitzpatrick, 9, at a meet-and-greet at Cooper's Commons last Sunday afternoon.



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 1 7 6 2

Please see GREEN, page 6

Don't miss the big egg hunt!

The town of Agawam Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Agawam Parks & Recreation Department, the Agawam Lions Club and the Agawam Rotary Club, will take place Saturday, April 12, at School Street Park. Registration begins Tuesday, April 1, in the Parks & Recreation office and, due to limited parking, is restricted to the first 200 families. Cost is \$5 per family.

The hunt will begin promptly at 11 a.m.

Attendees are asked to arrive early and bring a basket or bag to collect eggs. Cars will not be permitted into the park without a special pass that will be given out at registration.

Eight-thousand eggs will be available in three age-appropriate categories (4 and younger; 5-7; and 8 and older) with special prizes in each area.

Rain date is Saturday, April 19, and will be rain or shine.

Document shredding free to residents

The town of Agawam has announced that it will host a free document-shredding event for residents Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield St.

The Federal Trade Commission estimates that as many as 10 million Americans have their identities stolen each year. Identity theft starts with the misuse of your personal identifying information. Documents such as old bank statements, legal documents, medical records, tax records, receipts/invoices, utility bills, canceled checks and statements containing credit card numbers, birth dates, signatures, passwords and pin numbers are

all items that should be shredded to avoid identity theft.

For more information on how to protect your identity, visit www.consumer.ftc.gov.

Valley Green Shredding will provide an on-site mobile shred unit to securely and confidentially shred residential documents for free. Residents are asked to limit their confidential documents to five standard size boxes. All three-ring binders and binder clips should be removed. Paper clips, staples, spiral bound notebooks are all acceptable.

For more information, contact the Department of Public Works at 821-0624.

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WHERE IS IT?

Each week *Agawam Advertiser News* will feature a photo of a local building, item, sign, place or landmark and ask readers to pick their brains to figure out where it is or even what it is. Check here each week to test your knowledge of the area where we live and work. The photo will be from either Agawam or Feeding Hills, but we'll always give you a hint or two.

The answer to this week's "Where is it?" will run in next week's edition along with the name of the first person to submit a correct answer and a new trivia photo for you to consider.

E-mail answers or future Where Is It? suggestions to editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.

Turley Publications photo by Kimberly Hatch



This flag waves proudly somewhere in Feeding Hills. Tell us, do you know where it's located?

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Clean Energy COLLECTIVE

Agawam centenarian feted

BIRTHDAY, from page 1

"I always look to her when I need advice about different things," said Sara Ryan. "She has a lot of good advice and wisdom because she has been through so much."

Ryan also has gone to her great-grandmother for help with history projects. Overall, she is grateful to have had a great-grandmother her entire life.

"She has always come to my birthday parties and all our family holidays," said Ryan. "She is very special. She is a mentor and a role model."

Asta-Ferrero was born in eastern Massachusetts and spent a majority of her childhood in Rockland, Maine. After getting married, she relocated to Agawam. She gave birth to three children, Duane, Brian, and Charles. All of them were present with their families to celebrate the family matriarch's birthday.

"It's such a great day for her," said Duane Asta-Ferrero. "She has done very well for herself."

The milestone of turning 100 is important for anyone, but Duane said the key to his mother's longevity was simply good living.

"She lived a very clean and active life," said Duane. "She never drank or smoked, and she was always doing things. She does not even look 100."

She received several awards and congratulations, including recognition from President Barack Obama.

The party meant a lot to her, and she was very happy to see her children and so many of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"Some of them I have not seen in a while," she said. "I was so surprised at this, and I am so happy to be alive here today."

Charles Asta-Ferrero said his mother has



Asta-Ferrero displays a letter of congratulations she received from President Barack Obama.

had an amazing run in life.

"Wow," he said. "Just wow. Thinking about it, I am just amazed at how well she has done. She means so much to all of us, and she has always been there for us."

Charles said he was especially fond of his mother for taking him on vacations to where she grew up in Maine.

"We had the best vacations with her," he said.

Asta-Ferrero was complimented for being independent and in overall good health as she reached the century mark. The birthday party was celebrated with two huge cakes, and more than 40 people attended.

She was married to Mario Asta-Ferrero, who lived to be 97 years old. He passed away in 2009.



Robin Brunt presents her grandmother with a celebratory cake.



Bernice Irene Asta-Ferrero celebrates her 100th birthday last Saturday at Partners Restaurant in Agawam. She poses with her three sons, from the left, Brian, Duane and Charles.

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Opinion

Championing the public's right-to-know

At one point in my 22-year daily and weekly newspaper career, I actually was somebody up and coming on the fast track in Massachusetts journalism. Then I got old and had kids, which is a humbling experience to say the least. For almost 10 years, however, I served as a vice president and executive committee member for the New England Press Association (www.nenpa.org), which now represents most all weekly and daily newspapers throughout all of New England. During those glory days of NENPA service, the greatest joy I received was fighting for public records and open meeting access rights for journalists by choosing our convention speakers, newsletter writings, subcommittee study, and direct legislative advocacy on Beacon Hill.

Though my career ambitions were subdued by baby diapers, the need for a more stable paycheck, and a home my family could actually afford much farther west of Boston,

I have never once lost my passion for protecting the First Amendment and the Fourth Estate.

Whatever political spectrum you admonish, there should be no doubt that the public's free, unencumbered access to government and court records is quickly eroding. It happens with small town municipal departments who don't know any better, some larger city council leaders who scoff at the notion that they actually represent the people, from state of-

fice press flaks who demand to know why you want public information, and even our court system that still operates public records access like it's 1980. The fact is many executive branch and municipal records are supposed to be public unless specifically exempt, but they have become functionally inaccessible due to excessive cost, technological barriers, and administrative obstruction or delay. The law hasn't been substantially updated since 1973.

There is a silver lining on the horizon, if a robust proposal can escape the legislative death grasp of yet another study committee assignment. Originally filed by state Rep. Peter Kocot, a redrafted Mass. House Bill 3945 was recently reported favorably by the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. This bill, which will improve access to public records, has now been sent to the Joint Committee on Rules for deliberation.

So why am I chiming in? NENPA's current Executive Directive Dan Cotter reached out to me personally last week to see if I could reconnect with our readers during this critical time with such a major bill pending. After researching the proposal, I would have to concur with Gavi Wolfe, legislative counsel for the ACLU of Massachusetts, that our cur-



rent public records law is broken and we all need to champion steps needed to make a major course correction.

House Bill 3945 - An Act to improve access to public records (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/188/House/H3945>) would do the following:

- 1) Require agencies to have a "records access officer" – an identified point person to streamline responses to public records requests.
- 2) Increase access to public records in electronic form.
- 3) Lower costs for requestors – so they pay for limited staff time and the actual cost of producing the records – and place limits on charges for redacting documents to withhold information.
- 4) Direct courts to award attorney's fees when agencies block access to public information.
- 5) Create a commission to identify ways to make the legislature's work more open to the public and consider "the practicability of applying the provisions of the public records and open meetings laws to the General Court either by statute or by rule."

Electronic records

Documents created electronically should be given to requesters in electronic form, and more public documents should be made available online.

- When records are created electronically, it makes sense to provide them in electronic form, rather than paper.
- Providing records in electronic form saves time, money, and paper. It makes the information more accessible, which is the point of the law.
- Commonly requested documents should be published online to save everyone time and energy by pre-empting formal requests.

Cost of records

Access to public information shouldn't be costly. Fees should reflect actual materials costs and limited service fees.

- Materials fees – for copies, printouts, or electronic storage devices – should not exceed the actual cost of the materials.
- The bill would reduce the cost of black and white copies and computer printouts to 5 cents per side of paper (or 7 cents for legal pages), following states like New Jersey, where these fees were updated in 2010 and signed into law by Gov. Christie.
- Administrative fees for time spent finding and copying records should be modest and only applied to time-consuming requests (more than 2 hours of work).
- Fees should not be charged for time spent reviewing documents to decide what information to withhold from the public.
- "The public" shouldn't be saddled with hefty fees to get public information.

Attorneys' fees

Without a meaningful enforcement mechanism, agencies can deny access to public records without consequences. Attorneys' fees provide incentive for agencies to take the law seriously.

- Lacking this provision, Massachusetts lags behind the national mainstream. More than 40 states and the federal FOIA law already authorize attorneys' fees when people are

wrongly denied access.

- This bill will ensure accountability. When agencies block access to public information and force requestors to go to court, requestors will be entitled to attorneys' fees if they win.
- Freedom of information should not depend on having the resources to pay for a lawyer.
- Enabling courts to award fees doesn't increase litigation or saddle government agencies with big legal bills. Today, obstruction and delays lead to needless litigation. When agencies are prompted to take public records requests seriously, far fewer cases need to be taken to court.

Records access officers

- Having a point person for records access will make it easier for agencies to handle requests knowledgeably and efficiently.

- It will give requesters direction instead of the run-around.
- It will facilitate communication about the scope of requests, enabling requesters to get more relevant information faster.
- It does not require any new hires, just making sure responsibility for managing public records requests does not fall through the cracks.

Commission on legislative transparency

This commission would identify measures to affirmatively make the legislative process more accessible and meaningful to the public, and would consider the most appropriate way to apply the principles of public records to the legislature.

- Establishing this commission would be an important first step in increasingly legislative transparency and openness.
- There are legitimate questions about the best way to import the principles of the public records law to the legislature, a deliberative body with 200 separate offices that receive frequent sensitive communications from constituents.
- A commission can grapple with these issues, and also recommend pro-active steps to make the legislative process more open, by, for example, giving more advance notice of public hearings, broadcasting hearings, publishing substantive committee reports, and posting legislative and committee votes online in an accessible manner.
- The commission is designed to create the conditions for a meaningful result. It has a timeline for initially convening (within 45 days of the bill being signed), a deliverable (a public report), and a date certain for that deliverable (October 1, 2015).

This bill will make concrete, practical changes to restore a presumption of openness in Massachusetts government and, frankly, to make the law function more smoothly for everyone. But the bill won't see the light of day if our own area state legislators don't dig in and fully support it, and we the people don't hold them accountable. If local representatives fail to support our rights, they are just as bad as the scofflaws who deny public access rights to all of us and undermine the very core foundation of our Democracy.

- Tim Kane is executive editor of Turley Publications. Email him at: tkane@turley.com.

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.

CITIZEN



Tim Kane

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Bacon Chicken Bundles

My husband is a 'meat and potatoes' man. He would choose beef over chicken any day. I prefer chicken and as long as the dish results in a very moist chicken, there are no complaints that it is not beef. Many of my chicken recipes are prepared with boneless, skinless chicken breasts that have been pounded to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. The breasts in this recipe are not pounded. If the chicken breasts that you have purchased are very large, you may cut part of the breast off making the plumper end only five ounces and freeze the remaining pieces for another recipe. (I have purchased breasts that are eight ounces.)

Also, most of my recipes calling for bacon are prepared precooked 'Ready-to-Serve' bacon. But the precooked version will not work in this recipe. If there are only two in your household, you may freeze the remaining raw bacon strips by placing them about $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch apart on a sheet of plastic wrap. Place another sheet of plastic wrap over the strips and fold them like an accordion. Wrap the folded strips in aluminum foil and freeze until needed. This makes for easy separation of the frozen strips.

I always have both taco seasoning and chili seasoning mix in my pantry. I have interchanged them in this recipe and either will work well.

**TABLE
FOR TWO**

ANN MACEY

Bacon Chicken Bundles
2 chicken breasts, boneless, skinless
3 bacon slices (not 'Ready-to-Serve')
2 T. brown sugar
1 T. dry taco seasoning mix

Place a baking rack in a foil lined 9" X 9" baking pan. Spray rack with nonstick cooking spray. Set aside. Fold the thinner end of the breast under creating a round 'bundle.' Wrap one slice of bacon around the entire diameter of each breast. Cut the other slice of bacon in four pieces and lay two pieces on top of each bundle. In a small bowl, combine the sugar and taco seasoning. Dredge each prepared breast in sugar mixture being careful to keep the bacon wrapped. Place each breast, bacon side up, on prepared baking rack. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 30-35 minutes then broil for two minutes to crisp the bacon. Chicken is done when juices run clear.

Ann Macey is the author of 'Ann's Table For Two: Quick and Easy Two Serving Recipes' and a resident of Agawam. Ann always welcomes your questions and comments and you may contact her at: AnnsTable@gmail.com.

Authors needed for READLocal event

The Agawam Public Library is seeking authors to participate in its third Annual READLocal Book Signing event to be held Monday, June 23, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This will be the kick-off event to the 10th Adult Summer Reading Program. This year, the theme is "Literary Elements."

The event will be held in the community room and each author will have their own

table on which to set up a display, meet and greet readers, and sell books.

Interested authors must have published a book for adults and not have previously participated in an author event at the Agawam library. Email a book summary and contact information to Wendy McAnanama at wmcanganama@agawamlibrary.org by Thursday, May 1. Space is limited.

Fitness First to host blood drive

Fitness First Health & Fitness Center, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center, Thursday, April 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A driver's license with photo or state identification with photo

is required to donate blood. All donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be 18 years or older. To make an appointment, call (413) 786-1460.

Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

I just wanted to say thank you for the informative article (3/13/14) on GMO'S in our food. I have been looking into this for the past year, and it made my day that Roberta McQuaid wrote this article. I want to applaud her. More articles need to be written on this to help wake people up. We have a right to know what's in our food.

Marlayna Chriscola
Agawam

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Peace is possible

Last weekend, March 13-16, was the Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath. More than 50 denominations and faith-based organizations and something like 1,000 religious congregations across the nation participated in this Sabbath.

The participants did not offer any easy solutions to the epidemic of gun violence in our culture and around the world. Certainly, I do not have the answer. Given how quickly conversations about guns turn bitter, even raising the question in a Christian spirit is difficult.

But like many of the participants, I am a minister of the gospel. I worship the prince of peace. Every day I join millions of Christians around the world in praying that God's kingdom come and that God will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. And I know that God does not will the violent death of our children.

I read in the Bible that, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16). God must weep every time one of his beloved children dies violently and too soon.

Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12). And yet we kill each other.

Pious words will not make gun violence go away. And yet I am grateful for the Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath. It was an opportunity for us to mourn those who have died. It was an opportunity for

us to repent for our complicity in our culture of violence. It was an opportunity for us to pray for victims, for their families, for perpetrators, and for our nation as a whole.

It seems right that the Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath happened during Lent, the season when many Christians emphasize self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting, and self-denial. Surely that is our call in the face of gun violence.

The Sabbath is now over. And, of course, the violence continues. It continues because we live in a fallen world, where the most faithful are often the ones who get crucified, and the most innocent are too often the ones who get victimized.

But Christians are a people of hope, not despair. Christians are a resurrection people. Christians are an Easter people. And, as Easter people, we say that violence will not have the last word; God will. Death is not the end of the story; life is.

God is at work in our midst all the time, bringing forth new life and new hope. And so, for now, we mourn, and we repent, and we pray. But we also keep going, and we keep hoping. We keep going and we keep hoping because we know that peace is possible. We know that justice is possible. We know that love is possible. We know that, with God, anything is possible. Thanks be to God!

F A I T H MATTERS



PASTOR
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Regular School Committee meeting agenda

Roberta G. Doering School

68 Main St.

Tuesday, March 25 - 7 p.m.

Richard Borgatti, Harold Clark, and Julian Miodowski

10. Business meeting:
 a. Routine matters
 1) Approval of minutes
 2) Calendar/Correspondence
 b. Warrants/Transfers
 c. Reports:
 1). Scheduled reports:
 * Personnel Update (paper report)
 * Financial Update (R. Clickstein)
 2). Subcommittee updates
 11. New business: None
 12. Personnel:
 a. Introduction of new Phelps School Principal Noelle Colbert
 b. Introduction of new financial analyst Mary Avery
 13. Any other items that may legally come before the committee
 14. Adjournment

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Fundraiser to benefit EvvGirl Foundation

Second Wind Yoga, located at 327 Walnut St. Ext., Agawam, will host a Yoga fundraiser Saturday, March 22, at 11 a.m. Donations from the event will benefit the EvvGirl NICU Project.

Evan Bard, a graduate of Agawam High School, was a Curry College nursing student and cheerleader when she was killed in a drunk driving incident just two

weeks shy of her 21st birthday. Her family has made it their mission to continue her legacy of kindness and love through the formation of EvvGirl Foundation. Evan's dad is scheduled to speak at the Yoga class at 12:15 p.m.

For more information, call Second Wind Yoga at 363-2326.

The Sharin' of the Green...



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Colleen Court member Hannah McCluskey places a tiara on the head of Madison Elias, 11.

GREEN, from page 1

the Colleen as well as being a consistent supporter of the Colleen contest.

"Kate and Cooper's Commons has been a friend to the Colleen Committee for many years," said Safford. "I thought we could host an event here at the store."

Safford says she hopes several of the young girls who came to visit Theriault and her court members will come away feeling inspired and will someday enter the Colleen contest when they turn 17 years old. The 2014 Colleen contest included just six entrants.

"This event is also a great way to help the girls exercise their Irish pride and enjoy it," said Safford. "I also hope it will lead to more entrants in the contest."

Gorde is Irish and takes a lot of pride of being a friend to the yearly contest and supporting the Colleens.

"I have always been proud to be Irish," said Gorde. "The Colleen and her court represent some of the finest people in Agawam. They are ambassadors of the town and the Irish culture. I loved the idea of being able to have the Colleen here and introducing her to young ladies in the community."

The young ladies who visited the Colleen and her court had the opportunity to wear a cape and tiara much like the cape and tiara Theriault received when she won the con-

test. They had the ability to get their pictures taken with the court members and talk to them and ask questions.

Squires Bistro in the common provided a luncheon for the court prior to the meet-and-greet, while Flowers by Tom provided flowers for the young ladies to hold when they wore the Colleen's cape.

Gorde complimented Theriault and the rest of the court for spending time with children in the community on top of the many other responsibilities the court has.

"They (the court) will make this town very proud," said Gorde. "They are so poised with everything they do."

Theriault said she had a great time interacting with the young children.

"I thought this was a great idea," she said. "I wished I had something like this when I was younger."

Court member Hannah McCluskey says events like this are important to the community.

"We are supposed to be role models," she said, "so it was a lot of fun to talk to the girls and take photos with them."

Theriault said many of the girls felt like princesses and like they were meeting someone famous.

The Colleen and her court will next participate in Holyoke's St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 22.

Rain barrels available again this spring

AGAWAM – Department of Public Works Environmental Project Coordinator Tracy DeMaio has announced that the town will again be selling rain barrels this spring.

"Rain barrels have become very popular in Agawam," said DeMaio. "More and more residents are using them, making water conservation a way of life in their homes, while also helping to reduce the impacts of storm water runoff on Agawam's wetlands, rivers, and streams."

A rain barrel collects rain water from the roof and stores it for use during dry weather to water house plants or outside gardens. Collecting water in a rain barrel is an excellent way to save some of the runoff and take the pressure off the water supply and storm-water management systems. Collected rainfall is especially valuable during droughts or dry conditions. It contains more nutrients and less salt than tap water making it great for plants.

The rain barrels are made from 60-gallon recycled food grade barrels in a terra cotta color. The fully-screened intake port keeps mosquitoes, insects and debris out. The lid can be removed for easy cleaning and for storing hoses inside the barrel during the winter. The solid brass threaded spigot can be connected to a regular hose or soaker hose. The overflow connector and tubing can be used to direct water away from the foundation or to join multiple barrels for additional storage capacity.

Orders with payment will be taken through Friday, April 4, with pick-up day Saturday, April 12, at the DPW, 1000 Suffield St., Agawam from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The cost of the rain barrel is \$60 each.

To order, send or drop off payment and order form to the DPW. Make checks payable to "Jack Miller." Order forms are available online at www.agawam.ma.us or at the DPW.

Councilors place focus on high school renovations

COUNCIL, from page 1

"We need to do some renovations and update the building," he said. "I would like to see where the MSBA places us and see what kind of funding might be available."

Submitting a SOI does not put the town of Agawam or the taxpayers into any type of commitment to a building project. It simply makes the needs of the town and the school buildings known to the MSBA and puts it in line for potential assistance in funding a renovation project. If Agawam was able to secure funding at some point, the MSBA would finance about 50 to 60 percent of the cost of a project depending on the criteria they set for reimbursement.

Rossi says the school is in need of updated science classrooms, and classroom space overall is needed. The proposed resolution states there is insufficient classroom space to allow teachers dedicated space. That means some teachers at Agawam High School are

required to migrate around the school with carts for their supplies, using empty classrooms wherever available at given periods of the day.

The resolution says that classrooms in the building are also undersized. The undersized and outdated classrooms make a renovation project fall under Priority No. 3, which states the issues could cause a loss of accreditation with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Another major priority is replacing the boiler system. The system was put in place in 1979 and is completely outdated. Windows in the school are also original and were installed in 1955. They are not energy-efficient. The building also needs electrical upgrades.

At Monday night's city council meeting, members chose not to forward the resolution to any sub-committees, and it will be up for vote at the April 7 meeting.

CPA funds considered for athletic track rehab

TRACK, from page 1

track continue to be an eyesore. The bleachers are falling apart and are rotting in some places. The track is a gravel surface and does not have the proper lanes needed for Agawam High School to host track meets.

In recent years, Agawam High has stopped hosting regular season dual track meets at the high school. The Brownies are instead forced to travel to the surrounding area's schools to have their track meets. Among the surrounding communities, Holyoke, West Springfield, Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, Longmeadow and East Longmeadow all have all-weather tracks.

The same will be the case in 2014. All of Agawam's track meets for both boys and girls will be on the road. Agawam will be visiting sites including Ludlow, Minnechaug and East Longmeadow during the regular season.

The lack of a proper track also hurts Aga-

wam for practices. They are often not able to field a competitive pole vaulting team because they lack the proper facilities.

"Unfortunately, we are not able to get any money from the (Massachusetts School Building Authority) to go toward the track," said Bitzas. "But we hope to get some CPA money and then bond for the rest."

Bitzas says he hopes the rest of the city council will support the track project.

"This is a big project and it needs to be done," he said. "I'm sorry to see that it has taken so long."

The exploratory committee was established in 2012 and includes several stakeholders in the establishment of a new track, including Bitzas, high school Athletic Director David Stratton, track and field coach Dan Pryce, former athletic director Lou Conte, Parks and Recreation Director Christopher Sparks, Town Clerk Richard Thereoux and Zoning Board of Appeals Secretary Jenn Bonfiglio.

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In the Classroom

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GRADE 5

Emma Ackley, Abigail Agron, Mia Alabano, Julia Allen, Thomas Arcelaschi, Noor Awkal, Rawan Awkal, Jacob Baeder, Emily Ball, William Balzano, Samuel Belmer, Demitra Benard, Vincent Bianco, Sofia Blanchette, Trinity Boliski, Joshua Bouchard, Reese Bourgeois, Madison Braska, Nicholas Briggs, Delaney Brown, Kevin Bryden, Nicholas Burbank, Hannah Cahill, Isabella Caputo, Madeline Cascio, James Chenevert, Ryan Colewell, Dale Consolini, Keeley Cote, Serena Croteau, Kylie Crowley, Gianna Curto, Emily Czupta, David Dagenais, Jessica D'Amours, Justin Davis, Hannah Davydov, Nicole Depergola, Marissa Deslauriers, Anthony Dillard, Andrew Dzhendzheruha, Emily Ehrisman, Julianna Faillace, Anna Fedotova, Cristina Ferraro, Christian Fisk, Jocelyn Fonseca, Cameron Gauthier, Katherine Gauthier, Samantha Gentile, Ryan Gilbert, Joseph Glaessner, Andrea Gomez Marin, Benjamin Gordon, Joseph Goudreau, Tyler Gouvan, Jordan Gurau, Lauren Gurau, Julia Hall, Julia Hampton, Ethan Harnois, Daniel Harpin, Mia Hastings, Sophie Hastings, Samuel Hodovanec, Sophia Hunt, Ashley Hurley, Olga Iovenco, Agnes Isufi, Joseph Jagodowski, Joseph Jendrysik, Nathan Jodoin, Alyssa Johnson, Margaret Johnston, Jacob Kibbe, Emanuel Kodreanu, Hannah Krafcik, Adam Krause, Asude Kumaz, Emily Landry, Natalie Lane, Austin Larrabee, Kolby Lindell, Nina Liquori, Joseph Lochiatto, Samantha Lubarsky, Jaron Luke, Colin Malecki, Stephanie Maloni, Frank Marasi, Malia Matthews, Katherine Matuza, Sydney Maxey, Emma Mazeika, Brenna McAnanama, Sabrina McBride, Meagan McKiernan, Erin Mikuszewski, Delaney Miles, Victoria Miller, Sophia Moccio, Morgan Moriarty, Edward Nadeau, Julia Nicosia, Chelsea Normand, Tia Nuzzolilli, Eric Olson, Elijah Ortega, Laine Page, Xander Pananas, Brooke Perry, Timothy Polevoy, Joshua Privedenyuk, Adam Radkovets, Raymond Randall, Meredith Ravizza, Hannah Richter, Mackenzie Ritchie, Jennifer Ritter, Cierra Rodriguez, Emma Rokicki, Antonio Romeo, Vincenzo Romeo, Sarah Ross, Christian Rua, Emma Rubacha, Sophia Ruiz, Dahlia Ryan, Olivia Salva, Sage Sarrazin, Jackson Schlosser, Jocelynn Schmuck, Innessa Schneider, Sofia Sergeychik, Makenzie Shean, Kiley Sheehan, Anna Shlemanov, Colin Shlosser, Alexandra Shur, Rachel Sills, Jessie Smith, Summer Smith, Talal Soffan, Brandon Spaulding, Annabella Spinney, Matthew St. Laurent, Emily St. Pierre, Ryan Steele, Rowenn Stevens, Diana Streete, McKenna Strong, Kabeni Suresh, Samantha Surprenant, Shawn Svoboda, Julia Sweeney, Margaret Szpakowski, Ryan Tetreault, Skylar Thies, Riley Tourville, Athena Trench, Connor Twohig, Josephine Tyrowicz, Isabelle Uneegar, Kayleah Unglaub, Alex Varenayev, Ella Votzakis, William Walsh, Abigail Waris, Jonathon Watson, Joseph Weyant, Emerson White, Brett Wilkie, Michael Winer,

Kaitlin Winters, Lucas Woods, Abby Work, Brian Wyckoff, Sulamita Yukimets, Jennifer Yusenko, Jackson Zampiceni, Vladislav Zimokha, Emma Zollo.

GRADE 6

Genesis Aguilar, Shkurte Ahmeti, Arianna Albano, David Baranov, Imani Barbour, Emily Bazanchuk, Michael Beaudry, Madison Beaulieu, Conor Begley, Brianna Benjamin, Michael Berthiaume, Maxwell Blanton, Emily Bonfiglio, Gianna Boyle, Allison Breton, Jason Berton, Nicholas Buonagurio, Jordan Campelo, Thomas Caracciolo, Shannon Cassidy, Jamie-Lyn Cavallion, Aidan Chan, Ruby Chenevert, Cassidy Clarke, Shane Connor Kiera Cooley, Emily Cote, Riley Coughlin, Olivia Courchesne, Megan Crawford, Cedric Davis, Madelyn Dickinson, Sydney Dietrich, Isabella Dimino, Alexandria Dipon, Amaya Donald, Arianna Donovan-Issacs, Mackenzie Douglas, Mitchell Drewnowski, Jack Dunn, Megan Dunphy, Katherine Dustin, Madison Elias, Hailey Emmons, Erin Ewing, Emily Fallon, Maxwell Felix, Anthony Ferraro, Connor Feyre, Jalayah Figueroa, Johnathon Filamonte, Tessa Fitzgerald, Matthew Flagg, Emily Fontaine, Phoenix Francis, Jack Frogameni, Olivia Frogameni, Emma Gale, Peter Gameli, Patrick Gauthier, Nadia Ghareeb, Zao Gill, Emily Gillis, Santino Giordano, Matthew Gorham, Savannah Goudreau, Jaylee Hiersche, Rhiannon Hodovanec, Matthew Hotaling, Emily Houle, Audrea Hunt, Kaylish Ingham, Heather Iserman, Mariel Izoita, Ally Jabry, Dong Kang, Mia Kelley, Nastasia Kirik, Cole Kafeta, Dorina, Kodreanu, Alexander Korniyenko, Anthony Krzykowski, Eduard Lapsov, Nickolas Lavrenchuk, Payton Lemke, Matthew Long, Joseph Longo, Veronika Lukin, Evan Lyne, McKenzie Lyne, Godfrey Macadangdang, Ryan MacDonald, Abbey Majka, John Manale, Jessica Marino, Jeremy Martinez Maldonado, Tate Mason, Summer Matos, Julie McCorkindale, Emily McCann, Carina Menovshchikova, Zachary Moccio, Connor Montagna, Sarafina Nardi, Emelie Oberheim, Ashley Oczkowski, Alexandra Oldenburg, Jailene Ortiz, Suzanne Page, Prem Patel, Kaia Pfeffer, Emma-Lee Pickett, Samuel Polley, Geta Preiniqi, Elshama Privedenyuk, Zachary Quick, Ashley Reagan, Cassie Reed, Summer Reigles, Madison Rinker, Thalia Rivera, Brody Robbins, Abigail Rodriguez, Jonathan Rolon, Lucas Rosati, Shania Rossi, Anna Russo, Antonio Russo, Diana Rybnikov, Dzmitry Ryhal, Mark Salagornik, Abigail Sanchez, Michael Santore, Gavin Scannapieco, Angelina Shayda, Dylan Sliech, Ryan Smith, Mikayla Sole, Esther Stepchuk, Brooke Szafran, Emma Thomson, Nicholas Thomson, Ethan Timms, James Tyrowicz, Ryan Wargo, Alec Weld, Mason Wesley, Danielle Widmer, Zach Wieners, Devin Williams, Amanda Woodford, Marykate Wysocki, Gianna Yacovone, Ruvim Yukimets.

'Math Counts' at Agawam Junior High



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Back row, from left, Math Counts Coach Karen Roberts, Danielle Murray, Felicity Rovatti and Coach Sarah Hopson; middle row, Coach Danielle Montambault, David Wheat, Evan Shannon and Coach Cynthia Agruso; front row, Tim Goudreau, Adam Kasperik and Pranav Saravanan.

The Math Counts Club, a team of Agawam Junior High School seventh- and eighth-grade students, competed in February at the 2014 Math Counts Competition held at the Hampden Charter School in Chicopee.

The Junior High students competed

with many middle schools in the Western Mass. district. Math Counts is a national enrichment club and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement through grassroots involvement in every U.S. state and territory.

Public invited to AHS Bands' spring concert

March designated 'Music in Our Schools Month'

The Agawam High School Bands, under direction of William M. Hueglin, invite the public to their annual Spring Bands Concert Wednesday, March 26, in the Agawam High School auditorium, 760 Cooper St. The Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Symphony Band and Wind Ensemble are scheduled to perform at the concert, which begins at 7 p.m.

The spring concert, in celebration of "Music in Our Schools Month," is an opportunity for the bands to perform selections in preparation for their upcoming performance at the Massachusetts Instrumental & Choral Conductor's Association Concert Festival at Belchertown High School next month.

A gift basket raffle will be held the night of the concert to raise funds for the band program, and a reception will be held for in the rotunda after the performance.

The National Association for Music Education has designated March as "Music in Our Schools Month" to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children – and to remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. MIOSM is an opportunity for music teachers to bring their music programs to the attention of the school and the community and to display the benefits school music brings to students of all ages.

Campus Notes...

Goodwin College: Charles Rossi, of Agawam, was named to the fall semester president's list. Marlene Aquino and Charles Rossi, of Agawam, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

Lasell College: Carly Fellion, of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Mass. College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences: Rachel Tryba, of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean's list at the Boston campus.

Plymouth State University: Katelyn Landry, of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Syracuse University: Bridget Walsh, a former resident of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Siena College: Cameron Paleologopoulos, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Suffolk University: Zachary Hatchett and Cory Marcotte, of Agawam, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

Westfield State University: David Bertera, of Agawam, graduated cum laude in January with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications.

School of Visual Arts: Seamus Light,

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Families

Barber attains Eagle Scout rank

Scott W. Barber, of Feeding Hills, has earned the highest advancement award the Boy Scouts of America offers to Scouts – the Eagle Scout Award. A member of Troop 185, he is one of approximately 4 percent of all Boy Scouts who attain the Eagle Rank. Each candidate must earn 21 merit badges and successfully complete a community or church service project to earn his Eagle. Barber heard about a need at the Agawam Police Department; he was able to raise the funds to purchase and install two new flag poles and flags.

He has served as senior patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leader for Troop 185. Last summer, he was able to attend The National Youth Leadership Training. This week-long program is intended to provide standardized, in-depth training covering a number of leadership ideas and skills.



DECOTEAU ENLISTS IN U.S. NAVY

Brandon A. Decoteau, 18, a 2013 graduate of Agawam High School, has enlisted in the United States Navy. He has wanted to serve his country since he was in kindergarten when the 9/11 attacks occurred. He will spend eight weeks at the Great Lakes Naval Academy in Illinois and will move on to Virginia to train as an intelligence specialist.



Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement-
Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better.

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'Raising the flags' one of many Scout projects



Turley Publications courtesy photos
Agawam Boy Scout Troop 82 members work on flagpoles that will line Main Street in Agawam as part of just one of many Eagle Projects.

Members from Agawam Boy Scout Troop 82 spent the day recently supporting an Eagle Scout Project working on the cataloging and maintenance of the 300 flags and flagpoles that adorn Main Street throughout the warmer months. All 300 flagpoles are being retrofitted with a new mounting system to allow for greater ease in attaching and removing the flags.

Other current Troop Eagle Projects include the construction of picnic tables and

kiosks at Robinson State Park; Emergency Preparedness Kits; restoration of the town's veteran's benches; working with the town to establish a disc golf course at School Street Park; restoration of the Granger Elementary School courtyard; training of a Juvenile Diabetes Alert Dog; and the construction of new benches/dugouts at St. John's Field.

Anyone interested in supporting one of these projects is asked to contact Richard Robie at r-robie@comcast.net.

'Parent Cafes' to focus on family, parenting

The Agawam Family and Community Program will sponsor the following Spring Parent Cafés. The public is invited to participate in round-table discussions and connect with other parents, share ideas, learn about community resources, obtain new ideas for your family, and laugh about parenting.

Morning sessions will be held from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., and evening sessions will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. in the dining room at the Agawam Senior Center, 945 Main St. Free childcare will be available for the morning sessions only.

Café 1, scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, will focus on "Identifying your Parenting Style." Good parenting comes in all different styles and although there is no one right way, there may be a way that is right for each parent. The public is invited to come talk and laugh with a peer mom to identify what style best fits them and their children.

Café 2, scheduled for Tuesday, April 29,

"Essential for Success" is back by popular demand. Peggy Hoime, of Cooperative Kids, a family coach, certified parenting educator and Abundance Intelligence leader, will speak about the three key factors she has found will lead to success in children of all ages and how to start applying them to your children.

Café 3, scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, is titled, "Summer Boredom Busters." Summer can mean excitement and fun for some families, while others feel overwhelmed and frustrated. Trying to find activities that fit your child and budget can be stressful. Helping children transition into a different routine can be tough and parents to take part as a "Parent Summer Survival List" is created.

To register, contact Michelle Connery, outreach coordinator, by phone at 821-0597 or email mconnery@agawampublicschools.org.

Free coffee, tea and treats will be provided

Registration open for Library Friends program

There is still time to register for Friends Sharing with Friends to be held Saturday, March 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Aga-

wam Public Library. Celeste Bruno, communications specialist at the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners, is the keynote speaker.

Bruno will discuss getting your message out effectively to media and potential members. After her presentation, there will be time for Friends groups to share stories, ideas and successes, including fundraising ideas such as raffles, restaurant donations, annual appeals for specific purposes, book sale successes and marketing materials.

Email Sharon.zitser@state.ma.us to register, and include name and library name.

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Obituaries & Church News

DEATH NOTICES

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Funeral March 15, 2014
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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to:

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Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Lenten discussion series open to the public

During the Lenten season, all are welcome to join in weekly faith formation discussions at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St. in Agawam. The series continues Thursday, March 27, at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. The topic is, "The Last Words of Christ." For a complete listing of Lent programs, visit www.StJohnAgawam.org.

For more information, email Sal Circosta at RE@stjohnagawam.org or call (413) 786-8105. This event is free and open to the public.

Crafters wanted for fall festival

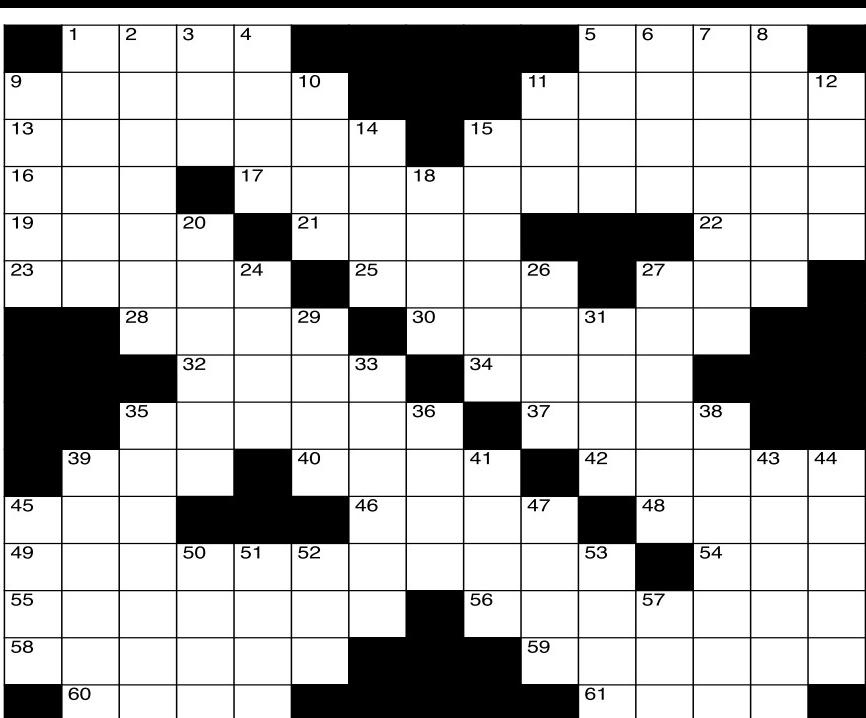
The Agawam Congregational Church is seeking crafters for its sixth annual Fall Festival to be held Saturday, Oct. 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church located at 745 Main St.

This will be a juried arts and craft fair and crafters of handmade pottery, fine art, as well as items made of fabrics, yarns, leather, paper, stone, concrete, soap, wood, metal, or any other material are invited to apply. There will be a \$10 discount for applications received by April 30.

For an application, call Bev Follis at (413) 427-3747 and leave a message, email her at bsanf437@comcast.net, call the church at (413) 786-7111 or download the application and rules at www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com.

There will be a homemade pie sale, a General Store, a raffle consisting of several handcrafted items, book sale, and the Country Lunch Café providing a large menu of savory fare.

People of All Ages Read Newspapers



CLUES ACROSS

- Former ruler of Iran
- Tax or levy
- St. Vitus dance
- A bog
- Mushroom rib structure
- One-sided
- Before
- Extemporaneously
- About aviation
- Macaws
- Refuge room
- Court case
- Conical kiln
- Media mogul Turner
- Cancer sign
- Fit into
- Somali supermodel
- Expires
- Trapped
- Someone who takes part
- Relating to Homer
- They —
- Helicopter

- Stabilizes
- Plea urgently
- Leg joint
- Nothing (Latin)
- Bleat
- Poi plant
- Loudness unit
- Deep blue color
- Fiddler crab
- About retina
- Nail protein
- Replace ammo
- Most sensible
- Brooklyn team
- Father
- “Three Weeks” author Elinor
- All peoples of the Earth
- Nautical rope fastener
- Romeo, car
- Fiddler crab
- About retina
- Nail protein
- Replace ammo
- Most sensible
- Brooklyn team
- Father
- “Three Weeks” author Elinor
- All peoples of the Earth
- Nautical rope fastener
- Romeo, car
- Paddling
- Tibetan Buddhist monk
- Timor cloth
- Latin for witness
- Stabilizes
- Plea urgently
- Leg joint
- Nothing (Latin)
- Bleat
- Poi plant
- Loudness unit
- Deep blue color
- Fiddler crab
- About retina
- Nail protein
- Replace ammo
- Most sensible
- Brooklyn team
- Father
- “Three Weeks” author Elinor
- All peoples of the Earth
- Nautical rope fastener
- Romeo, car
- Paddling
- Tibetan Buddhist monk
- Timor cloth
- Latin for witness
- Coagulated milk
- This (Spanish)
- Moved on a log track
- Closed hermetically
- Nautical rope fastener
- Romeo, car
- All peoples of the Earth
- Nautical rope fastener
- Romeo, car
- Fiddler crab
- About retina
- Nail protein
- Replace ammo
- Most sensible
- Brooklyn team
- Father
- “Three Weeks” author Elinor
- All peoples of the Earth
- Nautical rope fastener
- Romeo, car
- Paddling
- Tibetan Buddhist monk
- Timor cloth
- Latin for witness
- Dog sound
- 13-19
- Involving the mind
- Washington city
- Beloved
- One who yells
- Whalebone
- The Phantom of the Opera
- Cut
- Bent away from vertical
- He killed A. Hamilton
- Digits
- Public violence
- Freshwater duck genus
- Angry
- Amounts of time
- Cuckoo

Answers on page 10

Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 77 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from March 11 to March 17.

On March 11 at 5:19 p.m., the department responded to Cecile Street for no incident found on arrival at dispatch address.

On March 12 at 4:33 p.m., the department responded to Northwood Street for service call, other.

On March 12 at 10:05 p.m., the department responded to South Bridge Drive for lockout.

On March 13 at 11:04 a.m., the department responded to Christopher Drive for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On March 13 at 3:17 p.m., the department responded to Cardinal Drive for public service.

On March 14 at 1:39 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for lockout.

On March 15 at 6:57 p.m., the department responded to Westview Lane for public service.

On March 15 at 7:40 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for unauthorized burning.

On March 16 at 8:29 a.m., the department responded to Beekman Drive for service call, other.

On March 16 at 10:17 p.m., the department responded to Edward Street for lockout.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 291 calls for service from March 11 to March 17. The department made six arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, March 11

Richard D. Bazukin, 21, of 27 Grant St., Agawam, was arrested on charges of on snow/recreation vehicle on public way, trespass with motor vehicle, disorderly conduct, unregistered snow/recreation vehicle, snow/recreation vehicle noise violation and negligent/reckless operation of a snow/recreation vehicle.

Thursday, March 13

Agatha Marie Perez, 25, of 28 Hunt St., Agawam, was arrested on charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (telephone) and domestic assault and battery.

Livio P. Kain, 77, of 110 Beekman Drive, Agawam, was arrested on charges

of domestic assault and battery, assault and battery on a person over 60 and intimidating a witness.

Friday, March 14

Craig E. Tirrell, 33, of 583 Kings Highway, West Springfield, was arrested on charges of operating a motor vehicle with license suspended and speeding in violation of special regulation.

Saturday, March 15

Justin Siday, 28, of 257 Broad Brook, Enfield, Conn., was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation and possession of Class B drug.

Monday, March 17

Chris D. Avgoustakis, 22, of 66 Sikes Ave., West Springfield, was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct, reckless operation of a motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle, speeding, no inspection sticker and tire tread-depth violation.

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Jen

Kathy

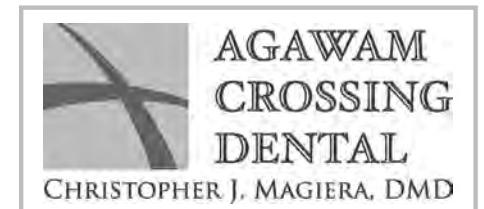
Ann

Cynthia

Jen

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- Cosmetic
- Crowns
- Preventive
- Partials
- Dentures
- Root Canals
- Implants
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Seniors

Agawam Senior Center

Weekly calendar of events

Monday, March 24: Friends Mohegan Sun Trip; 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:30 a.m., Painting Club, Line Dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo; 3 p.m., Theater Group Meeting; 4 p.m., Tap Class; 5 p.m., Zumba.

Tuesday, March 25: 9 a.m., Exercise, Knitting, Sewing; 10 a.m., PACE, Computer Tech. Club; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie ("The Jackie Robinson Story"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., Chorus; 3 p.m., COA Meeting; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class.

Wednesday, March 26: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble, Ballroom Lessons; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 1 Meeting; 5 p.m., Zumba.

Thursday, March 27: 8 a.m.-Noon, Tax Prep. (by appt.); 9 a.m., Exercise; 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch, Open Art Class, Free Blood Pressure Check; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6 p.m., Genealogy Computer Class; 6:30 p.m., Pitch.

Friday, March 28: 9:15 a.m., Oil Painting; 9:30 a.m., Tai Chi; 11:15 a.m., Yoga; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 5 p.m., Zumba.

Lunch menu

Monday, March 24: Roast chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, bananas.

Tuesday, March 25: Meatloaf, au gratin potatoes, green beans, mixed fruit.

Wednesday, March 26: Beef steak topped with fried onions, mashed potatoes, fruited Jell-O.

Thursday, March 27: Marinated romaine salad topped with grilled chicken, tomatoes and cucumbers, mini breadsticks, baked good.

Friday, March 28: Clam chowder soup, tuna on whole-wheat, dill cucumber salad, pudding.

Conference to focus on Alzheimer's, dementia

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Landmark at Monastery Heights, located at 110 Monastery Ave., West Springfield, will host an "Alzheimer's and Dementia Conference," Thursday, March 28, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. A panel of 12 local professionals will share their expertise on how to assist individuals living with memory loss. Topics will range from obtaining a diagnosis to seeking care options and advice on how to afford it.

The conference is free to the public, but space is limited and pre-registration is required by calling 781-1282.

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Notes from the Music Room

By Darcy Davis

Following in a list of some of the students who painted posters in the Agawam High School lobby.

1961: "Li'l Abner" – Robin Stewart; 1962: "Annie Get Your Gun" – Linda Langevin; 1963 "Bye Bye Birdie" – George Perry; 1964: "Bells Are Ringing" – Bob Osolinski; 1965: "Do Re Mi" – Barbara Tatro;



1966: "Music Man" – Helen Puskey; 1967: "Oklahoma" – Mary Tourville; 1968: Sarah Paul (no frame); 1969 "How to Succeed" – Tom Guevin; 1971: "Pajama Game" – Nancy Femmel; 1972: "Sound of Music" – Diana Ploof; 1973: "My Fair Lady" – Donna Disanti; 1974: "Camelot" – Gary Sherlaw; 1975: "Dates and Mates" – Deb Roberts; 1976: "Yankee Doodle Dandy" (name missing).

Alzheimer's & Dementia Conference

Learn from a diverse panel of 12 local professionals & how their expertise assist individuals living with memory loss. Panelists will present on various topics from obtaining a diagnosis to seeking care options to how you can afford. Please join us to hear how one of these services can help someone you love.



Thursday, March 27, 2014 4:30-6:30 pm
Free admission. Light refreshments
RSVP by March 25th to Mary-Anne DiBlasio at 781-1282

Meet the Panel

Presenter	Company	Health Service Field
Susan M. Megas, APRN, PC	Baystate Medical Ctr	Memory Disorder Program
Constance Carpenter-Bixler, PhD	Private Practice	Neuropsychology
Melissa Grenier, LCSW	Alzheimer's Assoc.	Program Coordinator
Rachel Tierney, PhD, RN	Alzheimer's Assoc.	Volunteer & Family member
Kathy Bowers, BSN	Weldon Rehab	Driving Assessment Program
Jim Leyden, Deputy Director	W. Springfield COA	Local Senior Center
Karen G. Jackson, Esq.	Jackson&Terrone, PC	Elder Law & Estate Planning
David Fedor, CFP, CRPC	Fedor Financial	Long Term Care Insurance
Peg McKinstry, RN, MEd	Mercy Life	PACE Program - All Inclusive Care
Suzanne McElroy, MSW	Home Instead	Senior Care at home
Mary-Anne DiBlasio, HHP	Monastery Heights	Assisted Living w/Holistic Approach
Scott Bullock, Administrator	Wingate of WSpfld.	Skilled Nursing Facility

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CLOSE-KNIT GROUP



Marilyn Marieb of Feeding Hills knits a scarf.



Mary Bennett of Agawam knits a blanket and enjoys the stories shared during the meet.



Sophia DeRaleau, of West Springfield.



Betty Edmunds of Agawam knits a sweater jacket.



Turley Publications photos by Kimberly Hatch



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Pietroniro receives national McDonald's award

HOLYOKE – Agawam native James Pietroniro has received the Ray Kroc Award, an annual performance-based award that recognizes the top one percent of McDonald's restaurant managers in the country. Named after McDonald's corporate founder Ray Kroc, the award is given to managers who deliver superior results in selected areas of performance and operational excellence, reinforce McDonald's commitment to people, and build the business. Pietroniro will be honored for his contributions that have continued Kroc's legacy, which began over 50 years ago, at an awards banquet in Chicago in March. He was the only winner from the Connecticut/Western Massachusetts area to receive this honor. Pietroniro will also receive a cash prize and trophy for his hard work and dedication to the Holyoke restaurant on Maple Street.

"James is just the best!" said Jorge Gomez, local McDonald's owner/operator, who nominated Pietroniro for the award. "He truly sets the bar for our industry and can do anything he puts his mind to. He runs his restaurant like a well-oiled machine, and it is truly fitting that he is being honored with the Ray Kroc Award."



Agawam Schools' weekly lunch menu

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school's website.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, March 24: Popcorn chicken bites with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, March 25: Belgian waffle sticks with syrup, baked potato rounds, sausage links, fresh orange wedges, juice cup.

Wednesday, March 26: Whole-wheat buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, French breadstick, mixed vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, March 27: Manager's choice.

Friday, March 28: Ultra-grain cheese pizza round, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL

Monday, March 24: Popcorn chicken bites with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, March 25: Mini pancakes with syrup, baked potato rounds, sausage links, applesauce, juice cup.

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, March 24: Popcorn chicken bites with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, March 25: Mini pancakes with syrup, baked potato rounds, sausage links, applesauce, juice cup.

Wednesday, March 26: Whole-wheat buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, French breadstick, mixed vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, March 27: Hot dog on a roll with condiments, Pirate's Booty, baked vegetarian beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Friday, March 28: Ultra-grain cheese pizza round, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

'Snow Queen' storms into Red Door Theatre

"The Snow Queen" has seen many adaptations since its original story by Hans Christian Anderson back in 1845. Local playwright Lyle Parsons, of Agawam, has added his own twist to the story in this exciting adventure between good and evil.

The play will be presented at the Red Door Theatre by a troupe of young people who have participated in an after-school theatre camp for the past six weeks.

The show opens this weekend, Friday, March 21, and Saturday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 23, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$9. Reservations may be made by calling the box office at (413) 789-2026. The theatre, now in its 23rd year, is located at 152 South Westfield St. in Feeding Hills, next to Hope Community Church.

Advance tickets to Shrine Circus now available online

SPRINGFIELD – The Melha Shrine Circus will celebrate its 60th anniversary this year when it comes to the Eastern States Coliseum in West Springfield from Thursday, May 1 through Sunday, May 4. Although the box office does not open until Saturday, April 19, advance tickets can now be purchased online at [www.melashrincircus.com](http://www.melhashrincircus.com).

Families will be able to purchase tickets regularly priced at \$14 to reserve the best available seats for the performance of their choice, or take in all the action from box seats for \$18. Children under age three seated on an adult's lap do not need a ticket. No additional discounts will apply.

Schedule of 2014 performances: Thursday, May 1, 7 p.m.; Friday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, May 4, 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Tickets ordered prior to Saturday, April 19, will be mailed to the customer's billing address. Tickets ordered after April 19 will be available at the box office during regular business hours 24 hours after the order was placed online, or at the will-call booth on the day of performance. Receipt or photo identification will be required when picking up tickets.

Discounted coupons will be available at all western Mass. Big Y locations starting April 5 – buy three reserved seats and get one free. Tickets may be ordered by phone at (413) 205-5087 and at the box office daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. starting Saturday, April 19.

When ordering tickets, indicate if a ticket-holder uses a wheelchair or requires special assistance; the Shriners will do their best to accommodate attendees' needs. In such situations, there will be room for only one other person to sit with the ticket-holder.

WELCOME TO THE CLUB



Turley Publications courtesy photo

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club recently installed its newest member, Alexis Simmons (right). Membership chairperson Christina Beauchemin welcomed Simmons, who has already become involved in some of the club's many activities.

St. John's to host Mohegan Sun trip

The Event Coordinating Committee at St. John the Evangelist Church will host a Mohegan Sun Casino trip Sunday, April 27. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 833 Main St., Agawam, at 12:30 p.m. and arrive back at approximately 8:30 p.m. Those going should be asked to be there at least 15 minutes prior to departure time. The cost of the trip is \$30 per person, which includes the driver's tip and a package from the casino that includes \$15 for food and a free \$15 bet.

For reservations, call Judy at 789-0124 or Angela at 786-5408.

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SPORTS

Agawam youths with bright future

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam girls basketball team, which has struggled to make appearances in the tournament for the past few seasons, may be getting a huge boost starting next year.

Coach Jim Lockwood said his eighth grade Division 1 Suburban League girls basketball team captured their second championship in four years. He believes if the team stays together, they could help make Agawam girls basketball successful for a few years.

"There is a lot of talent on this team and some very good athletes on this team," said Lockwood.

Lockwood says he has been coaching the core members of his team since the third grade. The team would enter the Suburban League in fifth grade, and soon after, it was clear the competition was not a match for Agawam.

"We were beating a lot of teams
Please see YOUTH, page 15



Turley Publications photo submitted

The Agawam eighth grade Suburban League Basketball team celebrates its championship victory over Holyoke.

Hartmann returns to Agawam program

Former player comes back to coach

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Just five years ago, the Agawam softball team was enjoying similar success to the teams that have won two straight Western Massachusetts Division 1 champions the past two years.

Now, a veteran is returning home to help out Agawam and bring some experience in the program.

Taylor Hartmann, a former shortstop for the Brownies, has returned to her former team to help as the official assistant coach for the team.

Hartmann says the position opened up during the offseason and she decided to apply after having a pleasant experience with the team late last year.

"I spent some time helping coach the team after I got done with school," said Hartmann. "It went really well and I'm looking forward to helping coach the team this year."

Hartmann was a standout as a leadoff hitter during her high school career for the Brownies. She upheld many of the same standards Brownies teams have had with having a good, patient bat, speed, hustle, and most importantly, excellent defense.

The former Brownie also sported some power at times with some home runs in her resume.

Hartmann was also an accomplished soccer player in high school and college. She attended



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Mary Kate Reidy warms up her arm.

the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, playing soccer for the school.

After graduating last spring, Hartmann returned to Agawam and helped to coach the girls soccer team, which reached the tournament and lost in the opening round of the tournament to Long-

See SOFTBALL, page 23

Winter season comes to solid end

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam winter season had plenty of actions with two teams reaching the tournament, and the wrestling team putting on a great show in the individual tournaments.

Two Agawam wrestlers finished the season by getting all the way to the New England Tournament. Though one, Anthony Basile, was unable to wrestle due to an injury suffered during the All-State Tournament, having three wrestlers in

two years reach the New England Tournament is a rarity, coach Armando Ramos said.

Agawam had great success in the regular season as well.

The Brownies hosted their own Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament and won the tournament with a few champions.

The Brownies were league champions and placed second at the Western Mass. meet at Central High School.

Agawam would place several wrestlers in the state meet, including Basile and Brennen Liebel, both who won individual cham-

pions. Chris Ortega, Fred Karl-Morin, Nick Blais and Nick Hope also reached the state meet.

In hockey, the Brownies put together a huge season after making the big move from the Division 3A into Division 3.

Along with the division change, the Brownies also were moved into the Berry Division, the toughest league in Western Massachusetts.

There, Agawam's depth and the growth of their program shined. In a lot of situations, teams that move up a division can struggle

See SEASON, page 15

BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS



AGAWAM - This hard working group of eighth graders were rewarded with an overall record of 26-11 and a CYO championship! Congrats to the team and their dedicated coaches. Top row (from left to right): Joe Oliver, Matt Rogowski, Myles Scott, Ryan White and Aidan Page. Bottom row: Tommy Grenier, Kyle Currier, Robbie Mirolli, Steven Grasso, Dylan Christy

Runners return to Holyoke

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE - With an emotional and historic Boston Marathon right around the corner, runners from all over the area and even foreign countries will flock to Western Massachusetts for the St. Patrick's Day Road Race on Saturday, March 22.

The numbers of race participants is already in the thousands, with more than 6,700 participants in last year's race, and many more in the 5K Run/Walk for children and families.

The main race is set to begin at 1 p.m. and is one of the many festive events happening in Holyoke to celebrate the St. Patrick's Day holiday.

Racers can register before Saturday at a cost of \$35 and \$40 from Saturday, March 15 until the day of the race.

The two-mile walk will return this year. The walk will begin right after the road race begins at the intersections of Maple and Lyman Street. Walkers will pay \$20 until Friday, March 14 and \$25 after Saturday, March 15. Walkers must pick up t-shirts at the Race Headquarters at 143 Maple St. from 3 to 6 p.m. on Friday, March 21 or 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on race day.

The Kids Fun Run is also back this year with race participants getting to lineup at 10:45 a.m. at the intersection of Hampden

and Walnut Streets and going through the finish line. Children will be lined up by age groups.

The Mummers will hold a concert at 12:10 p.m.

Starting on March 21, racers wanting to participate can go up to Race Headquarters to sign up in person. Runners will be staged near the beginning of Maple Street. The race starts at approximately 1 p.m.

Last year, the race was won by a couple in the male and female categories. Alistair Cragg from Providence, R.I., was the male and overall winner with a time of 29:20. His girlfriend Amy Hasting finished 12th overall and was the female winner at 33:32.

The year before, Zach Hine from South Hadley was the first Western Mass. native in 22 years to win the race with a time of 29 minutes, 38 seconds. Hine finished third overall last year.

Also, for people watching the race, a bus shuttle program will be started in collaboration with Holyoke Community College and Valet Park of America.

Shuttle services to the race site will start at 9 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. Runners should reach the shuttle location by 11:30 a.m. so they do not miss the start of the race.

Anyone with questions about the race can e-mail HolyokeStPatsRace@gmail.com. To sign up online, go to <http://www.holyokestpatricksroadrace.org/index.html>.

Desrosiers to play in Select Classic

BOSTON - Boston Amateur Basketball Club will be hosting the BABC-Select Classic starting Thursday, March 20 through Sunday, March 23.

The Classic will start Thursday night at Holyoke Community College with BABC facing the West Select team. The freshmen/sophomore game will be at 6 p.m., while the junior/senior game will take place at 7:30 p.m.

For Agawam, senior Tyler Desrosiers will take part in the game.

On Friday night, the 12th Annual Fitzy-Nolan games will take place as a part of the BABC-Select Classic at Quincy High School. The Fitzy-Nolan games will see BABC face the South Select team. The freshmen/sophomore game will tip at 6:15 p.m. with the junior/senior game taking place at 7:30 p.m.

The action will move to Central Massachusetts and Worcester Academy on Saturday. Saturday's action will see BABC

take on the Central Select team. The action will tip at 10:30 a.m. with the freshmen/sophomore, followed by the junior/senior game at 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, the BABC-Select Classic will conclude with three games. The first two games will take place at Salem State University, and pit BABC against the North Select team. The freshmen/sophomore game will tipoff at 10:30 a.m., and the junior/senior game will follow at 12 p.m. The Classic will then head south out of state to the Community College of Rhode Island, where BABC will take on the Rhode Island Select team. This will be a junior game only and tip at 4:30 p.m.

All games are part of the BABC-Select Classic and are charity events. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time by emailing d_viscariello@salemstate.edu; tickets may also be purchased at the door on game day.

SEE MORE SPORTS PAGE 23

SEASON, from page 15

with the increased competition. The Brownies embraced it, and won the Berry League title, scoring better records than rivals Westfield, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow and Minnechaug.

The Brownies had some difficulty putting away East Longmeadow, tying them twice in the regular season. When the Spartans reached the semifinals, it begged the question of whether or not the Brownies could finish the game. Agawam responded with a defensive masterpiece and beat the Spartans 3-1 in the semifinals.

Agawam would face Westfield in the finals. Unfortunately, the Brownies could not win three in a row. Agawam had beaten Westfield by small margins in the regular season, but the two teams had a very high-scoring final on March 6 and Westfield came away with a 6-4 victory.

The Brownies will graduate several players, but will return a solid core of 12 experienced players to fill their first two lines.

Agawam's other tournament qualifying team was the boys basketball team. The team had some success early in the season, then went through some struggles in the middle of the schedule. Near the end, the Brownies picked it back up and qualified for the tournament.

They had the unfortunate task of taking on rival West Springfield and would lose in the quarterfinals.

Other highlights for the Brownies this season included Tyler Desrosiers scoring his 1,500th point against Ludlow. Desrosiers is heading to the Hall of Fame for the Senior All-Star Game Friday night.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

DeStefano awarded Litz Memorial Scholarship



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Brian Litz Scholarship founder Tim Lockwood (left) is pictured with Mike Vecchiarelli, 2014 runner-up; Jack Litz; Nick DeStefano, 2014 winner; Scott Litz, representing the Litz family; and Arden D'Amours, scholarship committee member.

AGAWAM - The Brian Litz Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Nick DeStefano at the Agawam High School Boys Basketball Banquet held March 16. The nominees for the \$1,000 scholarship are voted on by the team members and presented in recognition of positive attitude, willingness to help teammates, 100 per-

cent effort and for being a positive role model for the youth in Agawam. Mike Vecchiarelli was named runner up and received a \$500 scholarship.

To date, the fund has raised over \$30,000 in seven years, and has given back over \$10,000 in scholarships to the program.

Please see YOUTH, page 15

by 20 points or so," said Lockwood.

After going undefeated when the girls were in fifth grade and sixth grade, Lockwood took the girls as seventh graders, and had them play against the eighth grade teams in the league.

"Because Agawam had an eighth-grade team already I took them to play against a different division of teams," said Lockwood. "But we still went up against pretty good competition, including South Hadley and Southwick."

The team would go 13-3 against the older kids and as eighth graders, Agawam went 13-3 again in the regular season.

They finished off their year by winning the league championship over Holyoke 56-47.

Leading the team was Lockwood's daughter Madison, a point guard who scored 21 points in the championship game.

Madison Lockwood scored 20 points or

more in nine of Agawam's game during the season.

"I think she has the chance to be a special player for the high school," her father said. "The team is losing their point guard to graduation and she has a shot at making it."

Jim Lockwood said he believes many of his players have a shot at making the varsity out of the gate next season as freshmen. But he believes the future is very bright considering the competition Agawam has defeated.

"We have beaten a lot of good teams this season," said Lockwood. "We beat Northampton and Holyoke, all teams that the high school sees during the regular season. I think when these girls get to be sophomore and juniors, Agawam High will have a chance to go pretty far."

The championship team this season includes Alexis Ralph, Nicole Langevin, Caitlin Normyole, Katelyn Poirier, Quinn Hunt, Liz Milliken, Sarah Lubarsky, Lauren Blackak, Aili Loftus, and Madison Lockwood.

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Things to consider before choosing a summer camp

Though March does not often elicit images of youngsters building campfires or playing games in the pool, it's a great time for parents to start thinking about summer camps for their kids.

Summer camp is often something kids look forward to, and something they will fondly recall long after they reach adulthood. For many kids, summer camp provides a first taste of independence, as youngsters spend significant time away from home without their parents for the first time in their lives. But as great an experience as summer camp can be for youngsters, it can be just as difficult an experience if parents don't find the right fit for their children. That's why it behooves parents to start thinking about summer camps for their kids in winter, before camps start filling out their

rosters, which tends to happen in early spring. The following are a few things parents should take into consideration when seeking a summer camp for their kids.

Staff

The right summer camp staff can make all the difference. Many children are understandably shy when arriving at a summer camp, as their friends from back home might not be joining them. That can make kids hesitant to participate in activities or less enthusiastic about those activities. But a good staff will know how to make kids feel welcome, which should help them come out of their shells and make the most of their summer camp experiences. The quality of staffs can vary significantly depending on the camp, so it's important that parents ask camp representatives about their staffs before making any commitments.

Ask how long the staff has been together and the types of training new and even veteran staff members undergo before the start of camp season? Does the training include first aid and emergency medical training and certification?

It's also good to ask about the vetting process the camp employs before hiring new staff, including the extent of its background checks. Are criminal background checks conducted? How many references must potential staff members supply to be considered for employment? A good camp will be forthcoming with answers to all of your questions, so eliminate those that appear hesitant to share information about their staffs.

A day in the life

When vetting camps for kids, parents should ask what a typical day is like once the season hits

full swing. Many parents want their youngsters to have a well-rounded experience, while others might want their kids to attend a more specialized camp, whether it's a sports camp focusing on a particular sport or a music camp devoted to helping kids become better musicians. Regardless of the type of camp parents are considering for their kids, they should ask about what daily life at the camp is like. Ask to see schedules and how strictly camps adhere to those schedules. When considering specialized camps, ask the staff representative if kids will have the chance to simply have a little fun and which types of recreational activities are planned to give kids a break from what are often rigorous schedules.

Camp goals

Another thing parents must consider before choosing a sum-

mer camp for their kids is the goals of each individual camp. A camp should be dedicated to ensuring kids have fun, even when kids are attending more specialized camps that tend to be more strict. In addition, parents should look for a camp that wants its attendees to foster relationships with their fellow campers. Camp can be lonely for some youngsters, especially those attending summer camp for the first time, but a summer camp that strives to promote friendship among its campers can reduce, if not eliminate, any feelings of homesickness.

Late winter is when parents should start looking at summer camps for their kids, and there are a host of factors moms and dads should take into consideration during the vetting process to ensure their youngsters have as much fun as possible.



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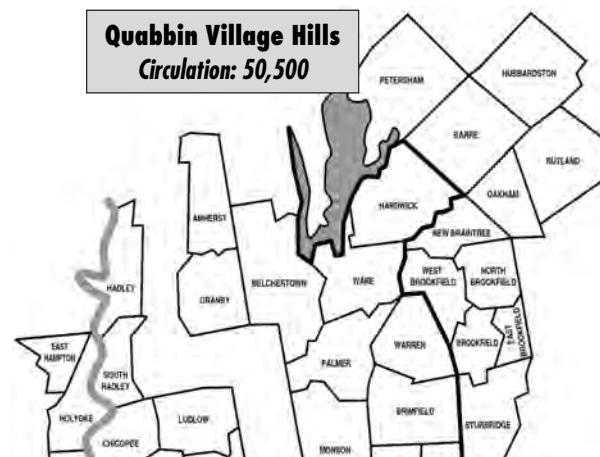
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TEACHER ASSISTANT- LITTLE Friends Child Care Center, Belchertown 8:00 am- 3:30 M-F. No experience needed. Please call Betsy @ (413)323-8447

Help Wanted

THE BOARD OF Public Works is accepting applications for temporary, seasonal, maintenance positions in the Dept. of Public Works. Hours may vary from week to week. The rate of pay is \$8.75 per hour. Applications are available from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the DPW office at 198 Sportsmen's Road. Applications will be accepted until April 17, 2014. Applicants must possess a valid Mass. drivers license. EOE/AA

Drivers

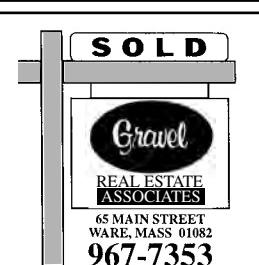


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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

LUDLOW 4 room apts. Private park. Stove, refrig. incl. Near bus line. 1st & last. No pets. 413-543-5326.

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote "free" events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Saturday, March 22

THE HOLYOKE MERRY-GO-ROUND is open and ready for families to stop in and beat the winter blues. It is currently open Saturdays and Sundays from noon-4 p.m. with rides only \$2 each. Call (413) 538-9838 or visit www.holykemerrygoround.org for more information.

Sunday, March 23

THE SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS will present Christa Rakich in concert, at 3 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral, 35 Chestnut St., Springfield. The program is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be received. A reception will follow.

LYRICORA, A 24-MEMBER CHORAL ENSEMBLE from the Boston area, will perform at 7 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield. Sug-

gested donation is \$15.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will host a "mini tour" at 1 p.m., led by Adele Gladstone-Gilbert, DMFA, highlighting "Fakes and Forgeries: Intent to Deceive Special Exhibition." The tour is free with museum admission and secure, free onsite parking is available.

Tuesday, March 25

ADULT DROP-IN YOGA is offered at the Agawam Public Library at 7 p.m. It is a beginner's class and open to adults 18 and over. Bring a yoga mat or blanket. No registration needed.

THE AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER will host a free movie ("The Jackie Robinson Story") at 12:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration needed.

Thursday, March 27

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver, and meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "A Per-

SOFTBALL, from page 14

meadow High School after a shootout.

"It's been great," said Hartmann. "I have been having a lot of fun working with the girls."

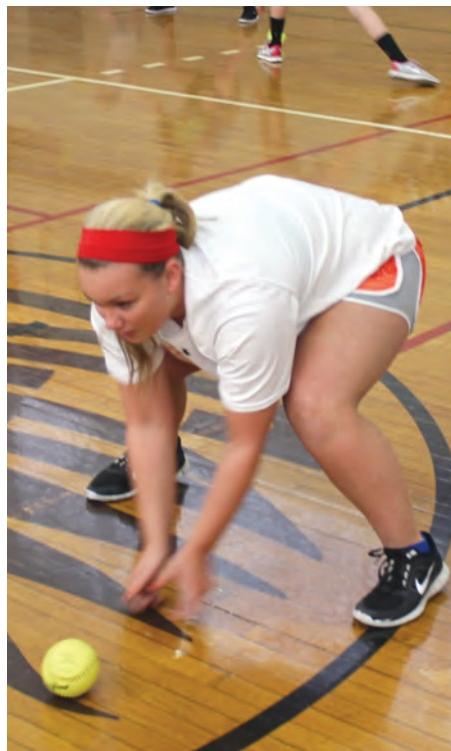
Hartmann says she has begun working as a corrections officer and has the time in her schedule to spend time helping coach the softball team.

Hartmann will be with an Agawam team she watched win their second straight sectional championship last season. The Brownies powered through last year's tournament with great pitching in defense. Agawam defeated Westfield in the semifinals before beating Longmeadow in the finals despite not being the top seed in the tournament.

The Brownies were able to make it all the way to the state finals and lost just 1-0.

Hartmann last played with the Brownies in 2009 when the Brownies reached the semifinals of the tournament. They would lose to West Springfield in the semifinals at Elms College. Hartmann had her last big hit against Westfield in the quarterfinals with a huge triple to start a big inning with the Brownies trailing.

The Brownies started practicing on Monday and the regular season gets underway in early April.



Taylor Marcotte goes through a fielding drill in the gymnasium.



Agawam High School softball coach Kathy Georgina addresses players trying out for the team on Monday.

fect Storm: Gauguin, van Gogh, and the 8 Weeks that Changed Art History" featuring Chuck Hayward, art historian, at 12:15 p.m. in the Museum of Fine Arts at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING

A GIANT TAG SALE will be held Saturday, March 29, at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. In addition to a bake sale, the event will also include fresh popcorn, clothes and accessories, toys and games, books, kitchen articles, household items and more.

HOLY NAME ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, 323 Dickinson St., Springfield, will host "Sicut Cervus," a concert of a cappella repertoire drawn from three programs presented in its 2013-2014 season, Saturday, March 29, at 6 p.m. The public is welcome. Admission is free.

EXPERIENCE MUSIC AT UNITED will present "The Pioneer Consort" with Chris Devine on violin, Michael Nix on banjo and Greg Snedeker on cello, Sunday, March 30, at 2 p.m. in Skinner Memorial Chapel at United Congregational Church of Holyoke, 300 Appleton St. The concert is free with a \$10 suggestion donation (\$5 for seniors, students. For more information, visit www.ucchyolyoke.com.

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT to be held April 1 at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield will feature guest artists Mar-

garita Nuller on piano and Eileen Ruby, mezzo-soprano. Free refreshments provided. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin, 25 Valentine St., Springfield or John Karalekas, TMMC president, Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield 01138.

A CARD AND COLLECTIBLE SHOW will be held Sunday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, 580 Meadow St. Admission is \$1; kids under 10 are free. There will be over 40 tables, a door prize drawing every 30 minutes, and the club is handicap-accessible. For more information, call (413) 593-6046.

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper Wednesday, April 9, at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL welcomes author Michael Tougas to the Agawam Public Library for its popular Applause Series as its 10th season continues Friday, April 11, at 7 p.m. Tougas will present a slideshow in support of his latest book, "A Storm Too Soon." Suitable for all ages, this is free and open to the public. A book signing will follow the program.

For more information, visit www.agawamcc.org.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at (888) 613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

PIRANHAS SET RECORDS



Turley Publications submitted photo

LONGMEADOW - Two swimmers of the Agawam Piranhas broke records at the 2014 Pioneer Valley Swim League Championships held at Longmeadow High School in February. Pictured with their record breaker plaques from left to right are: Summer Smith (9-10 girls) broke the 50-yard butterfly record with a time of 29.87 seconds and Sydney Winters (13-14 girls) broke both the 200-yard freestyle record with a time of 1:57.25 and 100-yard freestyle with a time of 53.86. The Agawam Piranhas team placed fourth overall at the Championships.

SPRINGFIELD FALCONS

It's Playtime!

SAT., MARCH 22ND
OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST
HEATHER O'REILLY APPEARANCE
7PM VS. **MONARCHS**

SUN., MARCH 23RD **3PM VS.** **ST. JOHN'S ICECAPS**

WED., MARCH 26TH 7PM VS. **ADIRONDACK PHANTOMS**

MassMutual Center

413.739.GOAL • falconsahl.com

WEDDING AND EVENT PLANNER

BANQUET FACILITIES

Chandlers at Yankee Candle – Voted the most romantic restaurant and best wine list in the valley for 10 years. Voted official best family restaurant of Massachusetts. South Deerfield, MA. 413-665-1277 or log onto chandlers.yankeecandle.com.

The Florentine Room at the Bluebonnet – Minutes from downtown Northampton. Wedding receptions, rehearsal dinners, bridal showers & more. Complete wedding receptions starting at \$21 per plate. Up to 180 guests, full bar & dance floor. 324 King Street, Northampton, MA. Call Jim 413-584-3333 or email jasgreco@aol.com.

Look Park Garden House – Gazebo, Pine Theater and Sanctuary for wedding receptions and ceremonies, meetings, banquets and events for up to 170 people. 300 North Main Street, Rt. 9, Florence, MA. 413-584-2220. www.lookpark.org.

Magic Wings Butterfly & Conservatory Gardens – You and your guests will be surrounded by 4,000 beautiful butterflies in a tropical setting anytime of the year! Accommodations for up to 100 for your ceremony and reception. All inclusive wedding packages available. We also host pre-wedding and rehearsal dinner parties. 281 Greenfield Road, Scenic Routes 5 & 10, South Deerfield, MA. 413-665-2805. www.magicwings.com.

Brunelle's Marina – Come get married by the water of the scenic Connecticut River at our unique, beautiful location. Then enjoy a river boat cruise on the "Lady Bea." Opening in 2014 the all new Dockside Restaurant & Banquet Facility and Open Roof Top Patio. Custom event packages available. Casual or formal and everything in between. South Hadley, MA. 413-536-3132 or 413-536-2342. www.brunelles.com.

Publick House Historic Inn & Country Lodge – Has been creating picturesque New England weddings for over 230 years. Visit www.publickhouse.com or call 1-800-pub-lick.

Sheraton Springfield – One Monarch Place. Your Weekend Wedding Destination; rehearsal dinner, wedding and post nuptial brunch all in the comfort of one location. Newly renovated, atrium style hotel with ballroom seating for up to 500 guests. Complimentary room for the Bride & Groom, Rolls Royce, Centerpieces and Parking included in all packages. Contact Samantha, your personal wedding consultant at 413-263-2117 or srivera@sheratonspringfield.com to set up your tour today!

Villa Rose – 1428 Center Street, Ludlow. 413-547-6667. Banquet facilities for parties large and small up to 200 people. Showers, receptions, graduations and more. Catering available for up to 1,000 people.

St. Marks Armenian Church – Conveniently located on the Springfield/Wilbraham line. Wedding Receptions, Bridal & Baby Showers or any special event. Hall seats up to 150 guests with dance floor. 2427 Wilbraham Rd., Springfield, MA 01129. Call Dale 413-531-9653 or email: ddiefend@charter.net or visit us online at www.stmarkarmenianchurch.com.

The Wherhouse? – Located downtown in historic Holyoke. The most unusual & interesting banquet function facility you've ever seen! Call today for your appointment, 413-534-3039. www.the-wherhouse.com.

CAKES

Atkins Farms Country Market – For over 20 years, our cakes have been made from scratch, and we use only the highest quality ingredients. Decorated with beautifully hand crafted frosting flowers and topped with probably the best butter cream icing you'll taste anywhere. Our cake has had rave reviews from our customers from all around the Pioneer Valley where we are also well renowned for our quality baked goods. 253-9528. www.atkinsfarms.com.

CATERERS

UMass Catering – Premier caterer serving the Pioneer Valley with beautiful views in the heart of the UMass Amherst Campus. 413-577-1234. www.umass.edu/catering.

FLORAL PRESERVATION

Flora-Ly – What will become of your wedding flowers? Flora-Ly offers the unique service of preserving the flowers you so carefully chose. We create stunning, custom keepsakes with your preserved flowers. Visit www.flora-ly.com to see what we have created. We can make something beautiful for you. Artfully preserving flowers and memories. 978-895-0560.

FLORISTS

Atkins Farms Country Market – Atkins Flower Shop is managed by three full-time experienced floral designers to assist you in planning the wedding of your dreams. You can be assured of receiving the excellent service and quality products from the floral department that you have come to expect from Atkins. Their work is beautiful and expertly done and offered to you at prices that are surprisingly reasonable. 253-9528. www.atkinsfarms.com.

Sixteen Acres Garden Center – The Floral Shop at Sixteen Acres Garden Center has been servicing Springfield for over 50 years. Our professional staff members aim to provide a service that is unique and tailored to suit individual needs. We provide a complete, high quality range at competitive prices. The Floral Shop at Sixteen Acres Garden Center offer flowers that are fresh daily and take great pride in our work. We have arrangements for all different occasions and for different budgets. For a professional and experienced service please don't hesitate to contact us at 413-783-5883. Located at 1359 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA. www.16acresgardencenter.com.



INVITATIONS

Ludlow Printing & Copy Center – Shower invitations, save-the-date cards, Wedding invitations. Largest selection in the area. Just mention this ad for 10% discount. Knowledgeable consultants. 44 Sewall Street, Ludlow. 413-583-5220. Mon-Fri. 8-5, Sat. 9-12. www.ludlowprinting.com.



JEWELERS

Silverscape Designs – was founded by Denis Perlman over 30 years ago and is noted for its commitment to showcasing the work of the finest in American handcrafted jewelry & gifts. Silverscape also specializes in custom designs for that perfect piece of jewelry. Silverscape Designs is located at One King Street in Northampton, MA. www.silverscapedesigns.com.

Stevens Jewelers & Diamond Gallery – A family operated company with wholesale and retail operations. Buying gold, silver and diamonds, jewelry & watch repair, custom design & remounts. Personalized engraving, appraisals. Visit us at our NEW location 1501 Elm Street, West Springfield, MA. 413-731-9800.



MARRIAGE OFFICIANT

Rev. Grace Carcich – Interfaith minister, creates an amazing ceremony that is personalized and special, in a hall or home, providing a modern and loving, welcoming atmosphere. Call 508-762-9150 or 480-251-5524.

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Karen Geaghan Photography – My life, my passion, my love! Specializing in Life Cycle Photography: Weddings, Maternity, Newborn, Children & Families. Doing small things with great love because in the end I believe it's the little things that count the most. Clients become family! Visit me at www.karengreaghanphotos.com or call 413-596-2227 or 537-3001. I would LOVE to hear from you!



RENTALS

Northampton Rental Center – From intimate to extravagant, weddings are a big event with us. We offer expert advice in selecting the finest tents, chairs, tables, dinnerware, glassware and flatware to make your reception memorable. 59 Service Center Road, Northampton, MA. 413-584-5072.

Michael's Party Rentals – Showers, ceremonies, rehearsals dinners, receptions. Tents for 10-500. Tables, chairs, dance floors, linens, tent lighting, events, graduations, bbq's. Call 413-583-3123 or visit us on the web at www.michaelspartyrentals.com.



Taylor Rental East Longmeadow – Family owned since 1970. We have a diverse selection of party rental items to cover all of your party & event needs. We offer full service, delivery & set up. 87 Shaker Road, East Longmeadow, MA. Call 413-525-2576 or visit www.TaylorEastLongmeadow.com.

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